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BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1937.

To the Council of the Borough of Bridgnorth.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1937.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health, L.E. Dickson, M.D., (Part time).
Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector, H.H. Thomas, (appointed in June) C.R.S.I. and S.I.E. (Jt. Board)(Whole time).

Sec.A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	2,502
Registrar General's estimate of resident Population, mid 1937.	5,243
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937, according to the Rate Book.	1,753
Rateable Value.	£ 26,366
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£ 101

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Pendlestone (Town) Mills is now a large collecting depot for milk, as much as 5,000 gallons being collected and dispatched in milk daily. No cheese is now manufactured.

There have been no other notable changes in the area.

Unemployment continued at about the same level as in 1936 and was highest on December 27th, when there were 100 persons wholly and 324 temporarily unemployed, and lowest on June 21st, when the figures were 45 wholly and 25 temporarily unemployed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births -					
Legitimate ...	96	52	44	) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the	
Illegitimate ...	4	3	1	) estimated resident population.	19.0
Stillbirths ...	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.	47.6
Deaths	74	41	33	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	14.1

Comparability factor 0.8. Adjusted Death Rate 11.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-	DEATHS.	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.
Puerperal Fever.	0.	0.
Other Puerperal causes.	0.	0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age -	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	40.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	41.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16.0
Deaths from Measles " "	1.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)... ...	0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0.

Sec.B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers - see above.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities - No change.
   (b) Ambulance Facilities - No change.
   (c) Nursing in the Home - The County Association has reorganised the districts and there are now three nurses resident in Bridgnorth, serving the Borough and part of the surrounding Rural District.
   (d) Treatment Centres - No change.
   (e) Hospitals - No change.

Sec.C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i). Water (a) River Severn Supply: There has been no shortage of this supply. A survey and report on the mains and distributing system, by Messrs. Radford & Son, has been made during the year. A considerable amount of corrosion and erosion of the mains and pipes was found needing renewals or reconditioning.

(b) Oldbury Wells Spring: The well has continued to supply the usual amount of water and there has been no need to augment this from other sources.

No analyses of these supplies were made.

(c) Rindleford Scheme: Work was commenced on this Scheme and the Borehole sunk to a depth of 300 ft. and a second Bore to a depth of 250 ft. in case of stoppage of No. 1. Bore. Pumping was carried out for fourteen days at the beginning of October and an output of 25,000 gallons per hour maintained during that time. Bacteriological and Chemical analyses showed it to be suitable and satisfactory in all respects for drinking and domestic use.

On the advice of the Engineers, Messrs. Radford & Son, the distributing system will consist of the storage well on Bromley Hill, the existing service of mains with some additions, and a Booster Pump at the Westgate to ensure a good supply of water to the higher parts of the west end of the Town.

(ii). Drainage and Sewerage: There has been no extension of Sewerage. The Cantreyn Brook, though not entirely satisfactory has been in fair condition this year. The Sewage plant at the Northgate is inadequate for the increased flow of sewerage to be dealt with and is not in satisfactory working order.

2. Rivers and Streams: No fresh action has been taken to check pollution of these.

3. (i). Closet Accommodation: There have been no conversions from the conservancy system during the year.

(ii). Public Cleansing: It has become necessary to acquire additional space at the Northgate Tip for the disposal of Refuse.

There has been no other extension during the year.

(iii). Sanitary Inspection of the Area: A report by your Sanitary Inspector is appended.

(iv). Shops: Regular Inspections are made by your Sanitary Inspector who reports that the regulations are satisfactorily complied with.

(v). Smoke Abatement: Observations and records made by your Sanitary Inspector showed that less black smoke was being emitted from the workplace in Listley Street, than formerly.

(vi). Swimming Baths and Pools: An analysis by the County Analyst of the water from the Town Baths stated that it was of satisfactory cleanliness. This sample was taken at a time immediately before changing the water.

(vii). Bugs: No case of infestation has been reported.

4. Schools: There has been no change in the water supply of these. No Schools were closed for infectious disease. Quatford School is now closed down.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

i.(a).	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects,(under Public Health or Housing Acts).	319
(b).	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	458
ii.(a).	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	30
(b).	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	43
iii.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	16
iv.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.	64

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	51

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

(a).	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
i.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.	0
ii.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-	
	(a). By Owners	0
	(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners.	0
(b).	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
i.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	64
ii.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-	
	(a). By Owners	4
	(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners.	0
(c).	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
i.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	1
ii.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	1
(d).	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
i.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
ii.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 Part 1V OVERCROWDING:

(a).		
i.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	42
ii.	Number of families dwelling therein ...	44
iii.	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	292
(b).	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	0
(c).		
i.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	10
ii.	Number of persons concerned in such cases.	68
(d).	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	0
(e).	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

Sec.E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a). Milk: Regular inspections have been made by your Sanitary Inspector since his appointment. Verbal notice to one producer has been complied with. No samples have been taken for examination for bacterial content or for tubercle bacilli.

(b). Meat: Since his appointment, Mr. Thomas has made regular inspections of meat, slaughter-houses, shops etc. and states that generally speaking the meat is of high standard and premises have been properly kept.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					
Number inspected.	63		2	175	282
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.	0		0	1	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	5		0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	7·9		0	0·8	0
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	0		0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned,	2		0	0	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	3·1		0	0	8·[illegible]

(c). Adulteration: No action has been taken during the year.

(c). Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food: The Public Analyst is Mr. H. Lowe of Chester. No examinations have been made.

(d). Nutrition: No work has been undertaken by the Local Authority.

(f). Shell-fish: There are no beds in the area.

Sec.F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been no epidemic of notifiable infectious disease in the year. A few cases of Scarlet Fever of a mild nature were notified. Three cases of Diptheria were notified in November, all of so mild a type that they were discovered by chance. No common source was found. Influenza was more prevalent in the early months than in the last year and of a more severe type.

School notifications of disease are found useful.

No use has been made of artificial immunisation against Diptheria, or of measles serum for prophylaxis treatment.

Cases of Infectious Disease admitted to the Isolation Hospital from the Bridgnorth Rural District.

Scarlet Fever.	4.
Diptheria	5.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937:

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	6	5	0
Diphtheria ..	3	3	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyroxia...	6	1	0
Pneumonia ...	5	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	0	0

Prevention of Blindness, No special action has been taken

CANCER.

Deaths. 16.

Age Distribution. 35 years.....1 death.
45 years.....1 death.
55 years.....6 deaths.
65 years.....7 deaths.
75 & upwards...1 death.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 .	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
35 ...	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	0

Tuberculosis is efficiently notified in the area. There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths in the area.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

L.E. DICKSON.

Medical Officer
of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1937.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a summary of the work of the Health Department for the year.

Inspections made during the year.	364
Revisits	139
Cases of Infectious Diseases investigated.	12
Number of Houses Disinfected.	13
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies.	22
Inspections of Bakehouses.	23
Inspections of Slaughterhouses and Slaughtering.	159

During the year 64 Informal Notices were served, and to enforce compliance it was found necessary to serve 4 Statutory Notices.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All infected homes are disinfected after notification of fever by means of fumigation. At the Isolation Hospital there is a Steam Disinfector where all infected articles of clothing are removed to be disinfected.

All articles of clothing brought to the Hospital with patients from the Rural District are also Disinfected before being removed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are now within the Borough 10 Slaughterhouses, and are situate as follows:-

6 in High Town.
3 in Low Town.
1 in Quatford.

During the year 25 persons were granted licences to slaughter or stun animals in a Slaughterhouse or Knackers yard, in accordance with the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION OF FOODS.

All premises upon which foods are prepared or exposed for sale are periodically inspected. The following is a summary of food found upon examination to be unfit for human consumption and was destroyed.

Description.	Reason for Condemnation.
Portions of Meat. Approximate weight, 190 lbs.	Tuberculosis.
Offals. Lungs, Livers, etc. Approximate weight, 97 lbs.	Parasitic and Bacterial Diseases.
Sheep. One carcase.	Bacterial Disease.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

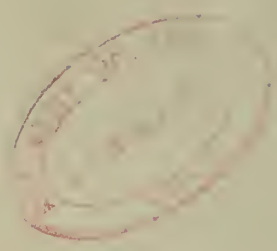
Sampling of Foods under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the Police.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS.

The number of Producers now on the Register is 7, and the number of Retailers is 17.

One licence was issued to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk within the Borough.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H.H. THOMAS.

Sanitary Inspector.